

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, JA

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE FORMATION OF JAPANESE STEEL CARTEL FOR
EXPORTS TO EC

REF: TOKYO 8669

1. "N.Y. JOURNAL OF COMMERCE" DATED JULY 8 CARRIED STORY
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THAT MITI HAS BEEN SOUNDING OUT JAPANESE STEEL COMPANY
EXECUTIVES ON POSSIBILITY OF FORMING A CARTEL TO CONTROL
EXPORT OF STEEL PRODUCTS TO EC COUNTRIES. MITI OFFICIALS
WERE QUOTED AS SAYING STEEL CARTEL NEEDED BECAUSE OF SHARP

INCREASE IN JAP EXPORTS TO EC SINCE JANUARY. ARTICLE STATES JAP EXPORTS TO EC TOTALED 880,000 METRIC TONS FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS 1975; THIS COMPARED TO TOTAL EXPORTS OF 860,000 TONS FOR WHOLE OF 1974.

2. VARIANT STORY APPEARED IN "AMERICAN METAL MARKET" OF JULY 2 TO EFFECT THAT MITI HAS REQUESTED SIX MAJORS TO APPLY VOLUNTARY RESTRAINTS ON EXPORTS TO EC, BECAUSE INDUSTRY FEELS CARTEL SYSTEM NOT NECESSARY, EXPECTING SHIPMENTS TO EUROPE TO FALL IN COMING MONTHS. ARTICLE ALSO QUOTES MITI SPOKESMAN AS DENYING LOCAL JAP PRESS REPORTS THAT MITI "HAD PROMISED" THAT STEEL EXPORTS TO THE EC IN 1975 WOULD BE LIMITED TO SLIGHTLY MORE THAN 1.2 MILLION

TONS.

3. POST REQUESTED TO EVALUATE POSSIBILITY OF CARTEL IN STEEL EXPORTS TO EC OR OF ANY OTHER FORMAL/INFORMAL RESTRAINT ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN JAPAN AND EC WITH APPROPRIATE MITI AND/OR INDUSTRY OFFICIALS. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STEEL, NEGOTIATIONS, CONSORTIUMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: EB/ISM:BWMILLER:LMP
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Subject: n/a
TAGS: ETRD, JA, EEC
To: TOKYO INFO BONN
BRUSSELS
THE HAGUE
LONDON
LUXEMBOURG
ROME

STOCKHOLM
EC BRUSSELS
PARIS

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